

## STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

### Claims 1-49: (Previously Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A method of researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a plurality of search field values, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) developing a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;
- b) developing a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;
- c) searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from among the plurality of documents;
- d) reading each of said plurality of retrieved documents so as to extract from each of said plurality of retrieved documents a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to obtain a plurality of user-defined field values;
- e) entering said plurality of user-defined values extracted in step d) into a second database; and
- f) entering the ones of the plurality of search field values corresponding to said plurality of retrieved documents into said second database;
- g) filling out a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form so as to form a plurality of HLA clusters; and
- h) assigning each of said plurality of retrieved documents to a corresponding respective one of said plurality of HLA clusters.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50, further comprising subsequent to step c) the step of filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents, step d) being performed relative to said refined set of documents.

of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents, step d) being performed relative to said refined set of documents.

52. **(Canceled)**

53. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim ~~52~~50, wherein each of said plurality of HLA clusters has a corresponding cluster identifier and the method further comprises the step of entering into said second database for each of said plurality of retrieved documents one of said cluster identifiers.

54. **(Canceled)**

55. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 50, further comprising the step of associating, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight with each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.

56. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 55, further comprising the step of entering said weights into said second database.

57. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 55, further comprising the step of tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

58. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 50, wherein step a) includes the step of at least partially populating a first input form.

59. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 58, wherein the step of at least partially populating said first input form comprises populating said first input form with known documents already known to the user.

60. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 50, wherein step b) includes the step of at least partially populating a second input form.

61. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 60, wherein the step of at least partially populating said second input form includes populating said second input form with answers to questions relating to a business of the user.
62. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 61, further comprising the step of assigning weights to at least some of said answers.
63. **(Currently Amended)** A method of researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a corresponding plurality of search field values, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;
  - b) receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;
  - c) searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents;
  - d) receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values, said plurality of user-defined field values having been extracted from said plurality of retrieved documents;
  - e) entering said plurality of user-defined values received in step d) into a second database; and
  - f) entering the plurality of search field values into said second database; and
  - g) presenting a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form to a user.
64. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, further comprising subsequent to step c) the step of filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents, step d) being performed relative to said refined set of documents.

65. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 63, further comprising the step of receiving a high level of abstraction ~~(an HLA)~~ cluster identifier for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.
66. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 65, further comprising the step of entering each of said cluster identifiers into said second database.
67. **(Canceled)**
68. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, further comprising the step of receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight for each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.
69. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 68, further comprising the step of entering said weights into said second database.
70. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 68, further comprising the step of tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.
71. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, wherein step a) includes the step of presenting the user with a first input form for developing said set of search arguments.
72. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, wherein step b) includes the step of presenting the user with a second input form for developing said set of user-defined fields.
73. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of receiving via said second input form answers to a plurality of questions relating to a business of the user.
74. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of receiving via said second input form weights for at least some of said answers.

75. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium containing computer instructions for researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a corresponding plurality of search field values, the computer instructions comprising:
- a) a first set of instructions for receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;
  - b) a second set of instructions for receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;
  - c) a third set of instructions for searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents;
  - d) a fourth set of instructions for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values, said plurality of user-defined field values having been extracted from said plurality of retrieved documents;
  - e) a fifth set of instructions for entering said plurality of user-defined values received in step d) into a second database; ~~and~~
  - f) a sixth set of instructions for entering the plurality of search field values into said second database; and
  - g) a seventh set of instructions for presenting a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form to a user.
76. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising in addition to the third set of instructions, ~~a-seventh~~an eighth set of instructions for filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents.

77. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising ~~an eighth~~ a ninth set of instructions receiving a ~~high level of abstraction (an~~ HLA) cluster identifier for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.
78. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium according to claim ~~77~~75, further comprising a ~~ninth~~ tenth set of instructions for entering each of said HLA cluster identifiers into said second database.
79. **(Canceled)**
80. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising an eleventh set of instructions for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight for each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.
81. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 80, further comprising a twelfth set of instructions for entering said weights into said second database.
82. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 80, further comprising a thirteenth set of instructions for tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.
83. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, wherein said first set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a first input form for developing said set of search arguments.
84. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, wherein said second set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a second input form for developing said set of user-defined fields.

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85. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 84, further comprising a fourteenth set of instructions for receiving via said second input form answers to a plurality of questions relating to a business of the user.
86. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 85, further comprising a fifteenth set of instructions for receiving via said second input form weights for at least some of said answers.
87. **(Currently Amended)** A system for researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a corresponding plurality of search field values, the system comprising:
- a) a computer;
  - b) a second database;
  - c) a first set of instructions executable by said computer for receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;
  - d) a second set of instructions executable by said computer for receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;
  - e) a third set of instructions executable by said computer for searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents;
  - f) a fourth set of instructions executable by said computer for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values, said plurality of user-defined field values having been extracted from said plurality of retrieved documents;
  - g) a fifth set of instructions executable by said computer for entering said plurality of user-defined values received in step f) into said second database; and
  - h) a sixth set of instructions executable by said computer for entering the plurality of search field values into said second database: and

i) a seventh set of instructions for presenting a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form to a user.

88. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, wherein said second database is contained in said computer.

89. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising in addition to the third set of instructions, ~~a seventh~~ an eighth set of instructions for filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents.

90. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising ~~an eighth~~ ninth set of instructions receiving ~~a high level of abstraction (an HLA)~~ cluster identifier for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

91. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 90, further comprising ~~a ninth~~ tenth set of instructions for entering each of said cluster identifiers into said second database.

92. **(Canceled)**

93. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising an eleventh set of instructions for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight for each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.

94. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 93, further comprising a twelfth set of instructions for entering said weights into said second database.

95. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 93, further comprising a thirteenth set of instructions for tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.



97. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, wherein said second set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a second input form for developing said set of user-defined fields.

Claims 98-103: **(Canceled)**